



Keystone Ag Digest



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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IN THIS ISSUE:	Mushroom Production Farm Labor	Cold Storage Agricultural Prices	Poultry Livestock Slaughter
<i>This publication may be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."</i>			

MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 61 percent or 496.6 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms during the 2006-07 season, up 1 percent from last year's production. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 89.1 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$442.3 million, up 17 percent from the 2005-06 crop.

Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 404 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$387.4 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 79 percent or 93 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$54.9 million for the 2006-07 season. Prices for mushroom sales are the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

Chester County, PA, accounted for 62 of the 73 Agaricus mushroom growers in Pennsylvania. Chester County growers produced 348 million pounds that were valued at \$309 million. The growing area in Chester County was 11.9 million square feet and the total fillings were 59.3 million square feet.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 814 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 2005-06 season and 3 percent below the 2004-05 season. Pennsylvania accounted for 61 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop is estimated at \$915 million, up 8 percent from the 2005-06 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 99.2 million pounds, down 30 percent from last season and 1 percent lower than the 2004-05 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 12 percent of the total Agaricus volume

sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2006-07 season is \$140 million, 15 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2006-07 is \$40.4 million, virtually unchanged from the 2005-06 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area. Sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 6.70 million pounds for the 2006-07 season, down 13 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$3.36, is up 11 cents from 2005-06. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.75 million pounds, is up 4 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at 2.41, is up 26 cents from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 1.37 million pounds, up 15 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.75, is down 10 cents from 2005-06.

Growers sold 36.2 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2006-07 growing season, 11 percent above 2005-06 season. Out of the 36.2 million pounds, 8.57 million pounds, or 24 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 8.78 million pounds, or 27 percent sold as certified organic during the 2005-06 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 78 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 1 percent of the 2006-07 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 38, up 5 from the previous season. These growers represent 14 percent of the 279 total mushroom producers.

PA & US: AGARICUS MUSHROOM SALES BY TYPE JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2007

Year	Fresh Market			Processing			All Sales			Growers
	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	Volume of Sales	Price per Pound	Value of Sales	
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dols	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dols	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dols	Number
2004-05										
Pennsylvania	385,473	0.893	344,227	109,959	0.428	47,062	495,432	0.790	391,289	76
United States	696,319	1.140	796,493	141,764	0.463	65,699	838,083	1.030	862,192	118
2005-06										
Pennsylvania	390,887	0.866	338,508	101,539	0.386	39,194	492,426	0.767	377,702	76
United States	704,584	1.130	793,538	129,093	0.428	55,298	833,677	1.020	848,836	123
2006-07										
Pennsylvania	403,564	0.960	387,421	93,002	0.590	54,871	496,566	0.891	442,292	73
United States	696,709	1.210	840,360	117,140	0.640	75,001	813,849	1.120	915,361	117

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUGUST 2007

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Aug 2006	Jul 2007	Aug 2007 ¹	Aug 2006	Jul 2007	Aug 2007 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn.....	Bu.	2.55	4.18	4.04	2.09	3.32	3.17
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.77	5.14	5.85
Oats	Bu.	1.83	2.39	2.42	1.67	2.33	2.25
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.70	3.45	3.57
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	5.23	7.56	7.49
Hay, Dry All	Ton	130.00	147.00	151.00	106.00	131.00	132.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	154.00	161.00	171.00	109.00	137.00	137.00
Dry Other	Ton	125.00	137.00	147.00	96.20	113.00	118.00
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	.317	⁶	.406	0.359	0.293	0.326
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	46.30	50.70	52.00	46.80	51.40	51.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	82.00	86.70	87.70	91.50	93.10	94.40
Calves	Cwt.	138.00	118.00	120.00	136.00	127.00	129.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	47.60	47.60	48.80	52.50	53.00	54.10
Sows.....	Cwt.	32.00	36.20	35.50	34.90	36.80	36.00
Sheep	Cwt.	42.40	39.80	-	27.90	28.70	-
Lambs.....	Cwt.	103.00	112.00	-	95.40	98.60	-
Eggs ³	Doz.	0.350	0.760	0.680	0.372	0.812	0.716
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	13.80	23.40	-	12.10	21.70	21.70
Manufactured Grade ⁴ ...	Cwt.	10.70	-	-	11.10	20.70	20.30
All	Cwt.	13.80	23.40	23.70	12.00	21.70	21.70
Milk Cows ⁵	Head	-	2,000.00	-	-	1,950.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. ⁵ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.). ⁶ Apples insufficient sales to establish a price.

AUGUST FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECREASED 2 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 139 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 2 points (1.4 percent) from July. The Crop Index is down 2 points (1.4 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received lower prices for onions, corn, broilers, and eggs. Higher commodity prices were received for wheat, cattle, strawberries, and broccoli. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, calves, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points (17 percent) from August 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 142, decreased 1 point (0.7 percent) from last month but increased 19 points (15 percent) from August 2006.

Fruits & Nuts: The August index, at 153, is up 2.0 percent from July but 5.0 percent lower than a year ago. Price increases for strawberries, apples, and grapes more than offset price decreases for peaches, pears, and grapefruit.

Commercial Vegetables: The August index, at 129, is unchanged from last month but 15 percent below August 2006. Price increases during August for broccoli, lettuce, and snap beans offset price declines for onions, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Dairy Products: The August index, at 166, is unchanged from a month ago but 80 percent higher than August last year. The August all milk price of \$21.70 per cwt is unchanged from last month but up \$9.70 from August 2006. The fluid grade milk price is unchanged but the manufacturing grade milk price is down 40 cents from the previous month. The July all milk price of \$21.70 is a new record high, up \$1.50 from the previous record high of \$20.20 set in June 2007.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS JULY 31, 2007

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 318,000 bushels on July 31, 2007, compared to 439,000 bushels on July 31, 2006. Individual varieties were not disclosed to protect the confidentiality of storage operators and because of the low volume of apples in stocks.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 13,356,000 pounds on July 31, 2007, compared to 18,438,000 pounds on July 31, 2006.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2007 were greater than year earlier levels for pork and butter.

Butter stocks were down slightly from last month but up 5 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 3 percent from both last month and the previous year. Frozen pork supplies were down 2 percent from last month but up 10 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 33 percent from last month but up 3 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2007 were up 7 percent from the previous month but down 17 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 3 percent from the previous month but down 11 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 12 percent from last month but down 2 percent from July 31, 2006.

HIRED WORKERS UP 1 PERCENT. WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1,205,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2007, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 847,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 358,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.04 per hour during the July 2007 reference week, up 32 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.31 per hour, up 38 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.80 per hour compared with \$9.49 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.44 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), California, Delta, and Mountain II regions. In the Northeast II region, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. The higher wages in the Mountain III, Delta and Mountain II regions were due to a greater percentage of salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed the average hourly wage higher. In California, there has been continued concern about potential labor shortages due to increased border security. Therefore, farm operators paid workers more in order to compete with the higher paying construction industry.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF July 8-14, 2007 ¹

Item	NE II ²	U. S. ³
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	36	847
Expected to be Employed.....		
150 Days or More.....	26	600
149 Days or Less	10	247
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired	42.0	41.6
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	10.78	10.04
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	9.74	9.44
Field	9.62	9.31
Livestock	10.04	9.80

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ³ Excludes AK.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE (BUSHEL), JULY 2007

Variety	July 31, 2006					July 31, 2007				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	Bushels									
Braeburn										
Cortland										
Empire										
Fuji	0	19,000	0	0	19,000					
Gala	0	1,000	0	0	1,000					
Golden Delicious	0	40,000	7,000	22,000	69,000					
Granny Smith										
Idared										
Jonagold										
Jonathan										
McIntosh	0	0	0	0	0					
Mutsu/Crispin										
Northern Spy										
Pink Lady										
Red Delicious	0	16,000	3,000	11,000	30,000					
Rome	0	9,000	26,000	29,000	64,000					
Rome Sport										
Spartan										
Stayman	0	1,000	0	0	1,000					
Winesap										
York	0	0	42,000	186,000	228,000					
All Other Varieties										
Not Segregated	2,000	4,000	8,000	13,000	27,000	0	37,000	0	281,000	318,000
All Varieties	2,000	90,000	86,000	261,000	439,000	0	37,000	0	281,000	318,000

Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified.



MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jul 2006	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	Jul 2006	Jun 2007	Jul 2007
Layers.....	Thous.	23,503	22,283	22,031	341,252	339,130	338,975
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,438	2,320	2,415	2,240	2,169	2,234
Eggs Produced.....	Million	573	517	532	7,645	7,355	7,574
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	3,736	4,637	4,040	32,727	40,005	35,560
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	14,600	14,026	14,316	801,537	810,419	820,865
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	26,058	26,277	27,158

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during July 2007 totaled 532 million eggs, down 7 percent from the 573 million eggs produced in July 2006. The total number of layers averaged 22.0 million during July, a 6 percent drop from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,415 eggs during the month, a decrease of 23 eggs from July 2006. Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2007 totaled 4.0 million, up 8 percent from the 3.7 million hatched the previous July. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.3 million during July 2007, down 2 percent from the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.57 billion during July 2007, down 1 percent from last year's total during July. The total number of layers during July averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,234 eggs, down 6 eggs from July 2006. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during July totaled 35.6 million, up 9 percent from July 2006. Broiler-type hatch totaled 821 million, a 2 percent increase from last year at this time. There were 27.2 million turkey poults placed in the United States during July 2007, up 4 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during July 2007 totaled 103.9 million pounds, up 9 percent from July 2006. Beef production, at 98.5 million pounds live weight, was up 19 percent from July 2006. Total head slaughtered was 79,800, up 16 percent. Live weight averaged 1,243 pounds, up 35 pound from last year.

Veal production was 5.3 million pounds live weight, up 1 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 14,000 head was up 2 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 6 pounds to 375 pounds. Pork production was 56.5 million pounds live weight, down slightly from last year. Total head slaughtered was 225,700, down 1 percent from July 2006. Average live weight increased 2 pound from last year to 250 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during July 2007 was 437,000 pounds live weight, up 4 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,400, down 2 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 5 pounds to 99 pounds.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JUL 2007

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Million pounds	103.9	3,938.9
Cattle	1,000 Head	79.8	2,901.6
	1,000 pounds live	98,546	3,672,121
Calves	1,000 Head	14.0	62.6
	1,000 pounds live	5,253	17,910
Hogs	1,000 Head	225.7	8,396.6
	1,000 pounds live	56,470	2,216,567
Sheep & Lambs....	1,000 Head	4.4	204.7
	1,000 pounds live	437	26,821

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

National Agricultural Statistics Service
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